

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 1, 2005

DVORAK BILL ON DIVORCE MEDIATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

INDIANAPOLIS -- House Bill 1263, coauthored by State Rep. Ryan Dvorak (D-South Bend), passed out of the Indiana House of Representatives by a vote of 94 - 0 on Monday. This bill makes technical corrections to the ways in which the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program funds are distributed and who may participate in the program.

House Bill 1263 specifies that the ADR program will now be applicable in the St. Joseph County probate court. It will also allow two or more courts in a single county to receive money from a single ADR fund.

The domestic relations Alternative Dispute Resolution Program provides mediation to parties in divorce cases. Mediation provides a quicker and more cost-effective alternative to holding a hearing before a judge. Several judges have stated that the ADR Program has been beneficial to relieving the backlog of cases in civil courts.

The ADR Program also helps those going through divorce proceedings as well. In certain counties, divorce cases can take up to a year and a half before they are heard.

"House Bill 1263 takes care of some loose ends in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program," said Dvorak. "Basically, this is legislation that is making a good bill even better."

House Bill 1263 now passes to the Senate for further consideration.